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**United Nuclear Corporation Proposes Ground Water Investigation
at Uranium Mine**

(Laguna, NM) – United Nuclear Corporation (UNC), which operated the St. Anthony uranium mine north of Laguna, has submitted a proposal to the New Mexico Environment Department to conduct a ground water investigation at the mine. The proposed investigation is required by the Department because ground water and surface water sampling have indicated that concentrations of total dissolved solids, sulfate and certain radionuclides exceed New Mexico Water Quality Control Commission standards.

The Stage 1 abatement plan proposes to assess ground water and surface water quality, and conduct aquifer testing. There has been very limited site assessment work conducted at the site to date.

The mine operated from 1975 to 1981. During mining operations, UNC operated under a mineral lease from the Cebolleta Land Grant, the property owner. The mineral lease covered approximately 2,600 acres and was terminated in October 1988. The St. Anthony mine is located approximately 11 miles north of Laguna and 40 miles west of Albuquerque New Mexico.

The public will have an opportunity to comment on the next stage, Stage 2, of the abatement plan, which will include a proposal for cleaning up any contamination that is discovered during the Stage 1 assessment. Public comment will be sought by the Environment Department within 90 days of receiving the cleanup plan.

For additional information, contact Jeff Sanders, Geologist, Ground Water Quality Bureau, New Mexico Environment Department, at (505) 827-2906, or Cathy Tyson-Foster, NMED Communications Director, at (505) 827-0314.

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